

Serial No. 10/518,869

Examiner: D. Bochna

Art Unit: 3679

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace current drawing Figures 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 5A and 5B with Figures 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 5A and 5B that are found on the five (5) attached informal replacement drawing sheets. Formal drawings will be submitted once these changes are approved by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 23-29 are pending and were rejected by the Office Action dated December 20, 2006. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 16-19, 21, 23 and 27 are amended by this response. Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections.

Telephone Interview

Applicant's Attorney, Ken Smith, provided Examiner David Bochna with amended claim 1 as set forth herein to consider before a telephone interview. A telephone interview was conducted on March 19 2007, between Ken Smith and David Bochna. Amended claim 1 and published European Patent Application 0531068A2 to Rex et al. were discussed. Examiner Bochna indicated that his initial impression was that amended claim 1 defined over the Rex et al. reference, but he would have to review it in more detail when he receives the response to the Office Action.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings have been amended to delete reference characters 66, 68, α , 102, D1, D2, D3 and 95a. Figure 3 of the drawings have been amended to add reference character 101. The Specification has been amended to add reference character θ that is shown in Figures 5A and 5B.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 has been amended to recite that the first fitting component is a male threaded body and the second fitting component is a female threaded nut.

Claims 21 and 25 have been amended to replace the term "body" with "nut." Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 8, 10, 16-18 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by published EP Application No. 0531068A2 to Rex et al. The Office Action rejected claims 7, 9, 19, 20, 25, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Rex et al.

Amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Rex et al., because amended claim 1 includes features that are not disclosed or suggested by Rex et al. For example, claim 1 recites a sealant material that is compressed between a first fitting component and an interior end surface of a second fitting component that is radially outward of a conduit gripping element upon pull-up of the fitting. Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Amended claim 16 is not anticipated by Rex et al., because amended claim 16 includes features that are not disclosed or suggested by Rex et al. For example, claim 16 recites a sealant material disposed in a nut that is squeezed between a body and an interior end surface of the nut upon pull-up of the fitting. Claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and are allowable for at least the reasons claim 16 is allowable.

Amended claim 21 is not anticipated by Rex et al., because amended claim 21 includes features that are not disclosed or suggested by Rex et al. For example, claim 21 recites a sealant disposed inside a nut in contact with a trepan end surface. Claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 23-26 depend from claim 21 and are allowable for at least the reasons claim 21 is allowable.

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Amended claim 27 is not obvious in view of Rex et al., because amended claim 27 includes features that are not disclosed or suggested by Rex et al. For example, claim 27 recites tightening a threaded fitting body onto a threaded fitting nut such that a ferrule deforms and embeds itself in said tube and a sealant is squeezed between an end wall of a trepan and the fitting body. Claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

The present application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 20, 2007



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